

# FIVE CHILDREN INJURED IN CRASH

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

Phone  
FA 8-4000

# Torrance Herald

Monday

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1956

CIRCULATION OFFICE FA 8-4004

10¢ per copy 12 PAGES

# DEVELOPER SUES CITY ON REZONING

## Bias Charged To Councilmen

Charles that Councilmen Victor E. Benstead Jr. and Robert B. Jahn were disqualified from voting on the ordinance relative to the rezoning of property at Carson St. and Crenshaw by reason of bias and prejudice, were contained in a 41-page complaint filed Friday by Atty. Donald Armstrong for McDonald Brothers, developers of the industrial tract on the land.

The suit, filed against the City of Torrance and Councilmen Benstead, Jahn, and Albert Isen, asks the court to enjoin the three Councilmen from enforcing provisions of the city's land use ordinance which limits the use of some of the property to commercial and residential development.

The complaint charges Benstead was disqualified to vote on the ordinance on May 15 because "he had publicly announced prior to Feb. 14, 1956



BEAUTY FINALISTS . . . These 11 Torrance beauties will compete for honors as reigning queen of the Third Annual Community Fair which opens here Wednesday. Top row (left to right) are Karen Brunel, Juanita Satterfield, Diane Trimlew, Renee Lemaster, and Karen Peters. On the front row (left to right) are Gaye Wilson, Lorena Ledwidge, Phyllis Weymouth, Pat Dawty, Nancy Taylor, and Mary Burke.

ride the zone approval if given a chance. The suit alleges further that Jahn was not present at any of the formal hearings before the Planning Commission or the City Council.

If the disqualification of the two Councilmen is allowed, the complaint contends that the affirmative votes of Councilmen Willys Blount and Nickolas Drale were sufficient to adopt the ordinance under provisions of the city charter.

Ordinance Not Needed

However, the McDonald complaint, alleges that the city Charter contains no provision relative to the power or procedure for adopting or enforcing zoning ordinances, and that adoption of the ordinance proposed on May 15 was not necessary to affect the rezoning.

The complaint contends, therefore, that the vote of the Council on Feb. 14, 1956, which ordered the area rezoned was sufficient to cause the rezoning. At that time, Councilman Mervin Schwab joined with Blount and Drale to order the rezoning.

The complaint does not refer to the 90-day delay between approval of the rezoning and presentation of the ordinance to the Council for formal approval although Armstrong has expressed an interest in determining the cause of the unusual delay.

The property in dispute is a strip of land 150 feet deep lying south of Carson St. and east of Crenshaw Blvd. The 60 feet fronting on Carson St. is zoned C-1 (retail commercial) and the next 90 feet is zoned R-3 (multiple residences). McDonald Brothers petitioned the city last December to change the zoning of the two parcels to light manufacturing to permit the construction of a modern industrial subdivision. The balance of the land in the tract, approximately 20 acres, is now zoned for heavy industry and could be used for any industrial purpose permitted anywhere in the city.

Construction Started

Construction has started on the first unit of the subdivision which is located on the property zoned for heavy industry.

Protests to the rezoning were presented at the public hearings by residents living in the area who objected to the development of the property industrially, although it has been the site of an industrial plant for many years.

Leading the protests was Joseph Landerville, 1630 Beach Ave., who spoke for residents of the area by saying they objected because of "the tremendous noise, parking situation, increase in traffic, and the area being opposite a school." Landerville later presented a petition protesting the rezoning.

The Planning Commission split on its recommendation to the Council on the matter with Commissioners Bert Lynn, William A. Mason, John Mulvihill, and Beverly B. Smith voting for rezoning and Commissioners J. A. Beasley, David Figueroa, Thirvin Fleetwood, and E. S. Schoonover voting against it. Lawrence Wing, the ninth Commissioner, was absent.

Subpoenas have been served on Councilmen Benstead and Jahn to give depositions in the matter later this week at the office of Atty. Donald Armstrong. A subpoena has been issued also for Mayor Isen, but he has been out of town over the week end.

date of formal hearing before the City Council that he was opposed to plaintiff's petition and would vote against it if it ever came before the Council." Benstead was further disqualified because he signed a petition which was filed with the Planning Commission prior to Jan. 4, 1956, protesting the granting of the zone change, the suit alleges.

Prejudice Charged

Basis for charging the disqualification of Jahn was the fact that he was not a Councilman until April 17, 1956, after the formal public hearings, and that he had publicly announced during his campaign for election to the Council that he would vote to over-

## Retail Center Action Delayed

A scheduled hearing on the application of Del Amo Estates, Co. for a variance to permit development of a retail commercial center at Hawthorne Ave. and Sepulveda was postponed without action by the Planning Commission last Wednesday night, and was rescheduled for June 20.

The postponement was ordered when Planning Secretary George Powell informed the Commissioners that he had been unable to mail legal notices of the hearing to property owners within a 300-foot radius of the area because he did not receive the names in time.

Interest in the proposed commercial development has mounted since THE HERALD first announced plans to develop the area on May 24. Wednesday's meeting was scheduled to be the first step in correcting the zoning problems to permit the huge development.

Another retail shopping area was approved by the Planning Commission at the Wednesday meeting. A request by A. M. Klum for variance to construct 10 retail stores at Crenshaw and 239th St. was approved and sent to the City Council for final action.

A petition by Addis and Alice Thomas for a variance to permit construction of a hospital at the northeast corner of Kent Ave. and 226th St., also was recommended to the City Council for approval.

M. D. Sharpe, of Beverly Hills, told the Commission that he planned to construct a hospital with 100-bed capacity at the site.

## Riviera Area Gets Redondo Mail Service

Mail carriers serving the new Hollywood Riviera Beach Estates, which opened last week, will come from the Redondo Post Office, according to an announcement made last week by postal officials.

An earlier report stated that the new section of homes would be served by the Torrance Post Office.

More than 100 homes of the new 142-home area were occupied last week, the tract was opened last week.

Other residents of the Riviera recently discussed petitioning the Post Office Department to have their mailing address changed to Torrance. Their mailing address now is Redondo, although most of the Riviera section legally is a part of Torrance.



BILL OLDHAM  
... Thrilled At Opening

## Thriftmart Completes Opening Sale

"We're very pleased," is the way Bill Oldham, manager of the new Thriftmart here, put it Saturday when asked to describe the new grocery store's grand opening sale. The store is located at Palos Verdes Blvd. and Sepulveda Blvd.

Oldham said indications are that the brand-new grocery store will grow with the rest of the booming Torrance area. Many local residents took advantage of opening specials, he added.

Thriftmart opened its newest store Tuesday. Grand opening was held last week end.

Oldham, a veteran of 17 years in the grocery business, formerly was grocery superintendent at Thriftmart's Bellflower Blvd. and Viking Way store in Long Beach.

## 1956 Torch Distributed At Hi School

The 1956 Torch, Torrance Hi yearbook, hit the distribution stands last week at Tarlville, with the theme of "Moments to Remember."

Edited by Bob Harris and supervised by THIS Art Teacher Larry Macaray, the 128-page annual features various phases of campus life during the past school year. A special message from Principal W. Bruce Wagner serves as the book's foreword.

Picture pages on classes, faculty, drama, sports, clubs and other phases of campus life all carry out the main theme.

In addition to Editor Harris and Advisor Macaray, staff members included Judy Stolley, Sally Jo Reed, Marilyn Linscott, Jim Kastarke, Bill Meacham, Lydia Luna, Rudy Whitcomb, Dorothy Kline, Sharon Cluckey, Pat Kirkpatrick, John Sherief, Dan Bridges, Gail Lightfoot, Gary Cooke, Richard Kai, Sharon Anderson, Ernie Thompson and June Moore.

## Mary Bell Harris Dies

Funeral services will be held today at 2 p.m. at Four-square Gospel Church for Mary Bell Harris, 79, of 1213 W. 204th St., who died June 6 in a local hospital.

A native of Georgia, she had been a resident of this area for 12 years.

Survivors include her husband, William C. Harris, of the local address, and Mrs. Helen E. Pandella, a niece, of Los Angeles.

Burial in the Roosevelt Memorial Park will follow services.



FOUR INJURED . . . Four people were injured, two critically, when this car and a taxicab were involved in a collision early Thursday morning at Plaza Del Amo and Western Ave. Police said the car plowed into the rear of the cab. Officer Bill Mitchell inspects interior of damaged car after wreck.

## Magner, Ahee Get High School Principal Posts

W. Bruce Wagner Jr., principal at Torrance High School, has been ticketed for the principal's post at the new South High School, which will be open next February.

Board of Education members okayed the transfer at their last meeting. Replacing Wagner at Torrance High will be Carl R. Ahee, now assistant principal at North High.

A new policy of having two assistant principals at each local high school also was adopted by the board. Under the policy, Leonard Lifton will become the second assistant principal at Torrance High where John Shea already is an assistant.

John A. Lucas will be an assistant principal at North High. Ahee will remain in the other assistant's position until he is transferred to the principal's post at Torrance High.

## Another Crash Injures Cabbie

Six persons, five of them children, received painful injuries Friday night in a two-car collision at Sepulveda and Normandie.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital were Thelma Ward, 33, of 25011 Cypress, driver of one of the cars; Terry Ward, 4, and Frankie Ward, 12; Diane and Barney Bradley, 12 and 13, of 1034 W. 222nd St.; and Vickie Davis, 9, of 25038 Cypress. All were in the Ward auto.

Driver of the other car was Robert Whitley, 40, of 24220 Ocean Ave., who was not injured. Whitley was charged with suspicion of drunk driving by investigating officers.

In another collision here early Thursday morning, four local residents were hurt shortly after midnight when a car and a taxicab collided at the intersection of Plaza Del Amo and Western Ave.

Hits Rear of Cab

Lawrence Fredrickson, 34, driver of the car; Zora Caster, 38; Gerald L. Eads, 30, of 2504 Maricopa St.; and Vernon Fredrickson, 42, of 1742 Manuel Ave., all were injured. Police said the Fredrickson car slammed into the rear of the cab.

Eads and Fredrickson reportedly were critically hurt. Eads was driving the taxi.

Chris Cazier, 5, of 3325 Arvada, received a brain concussion and abrasions when he was hit by a car Saturday near his home. He was transferred to a Gardena hospital, a local physician said.

Lawrence P. Green, 33, of 27024 Sunnyside Rd., Rolling Hills, was taken to Harbor General Hospital, with injuries, after the car he was driving tangled with a city street sweeper at 7:50 a.m. Wednesday.

Falls From Car

The accident occurred on Rolling Hills Rd., near Pacific Coast Hwy. Rolland E. Wallace, 42, of 20428 Hawthorne Blvd., was at the wheel of the sweeper.

Tarel Lee Murry, 3-year-old daughter of Vernon G. Murry, 30, of 19921 Hinsdale, was hurt Saturday afternoon when she fell from the family car on

## Bay Shopping Center Due To Open In 1957

Officials of the Brody Investment Co., developer of the new \$15 million South Bay Shopping Center at Hawthorne and Redondo Beach Blvds., said last week that the major portion of the stores at the center will be open by September 1957.

Bids are expected to be awarded on the center in August, with construction set to begin immediately thereafter.

The new center will include more than 30 stores, a bank, a restaurant, and the world's largest automatic pin-spot bowling alley. The 23-acre plot will include such stores as the May Co., Ralph's Market, Thrifty Drug Store, Bank of America, Harris and Frank, Leedes Shoes, Bekin Cleaners and Innes Shoes.

The Center Stationery Store and Modern Woman Dress Shop also will be constructed. A service station and the Steak Knife, a restaurant, also will be on the shopping center site.

Most of the stores will be open late next year, although the May Co. reportedly won't be ready for customers until the middle of 1958. The area is expected to provide the first centralized shopping area for the South Bay. People from Inglewood to Palos Verdes and the beach cities to Gardena are expected to make use of the \$15 million shopping facilities when the center is completed.

## Torrance Ranks 20th in Nation In New Building

Torrance placed 20th in the nation in new construction permits issued during the first four months of 1956, according to City Engineer Ronald Bishop.

Torrance outranked such cities as Boston, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Kansas City.

California cities ranked ahead of Torrance include only Los Angeles, San Diego, Long Beach, and San Francisco.

Ranking of the first 25 cities of the United States through April 30:

New York	236,374,553
Los Angeles	148,076,856
Chicago	111,939,587
Houston	56,919,203
Dallas	54,837,392
Philadelphia	40,413,860
Denver	34,223,453
Detroit	32,582,826
New Orleans	31,456,618
Milwaukee	29,987,271
San Diego	29,694,883
Long Beach	26,487,495
San Antonio	26,474,699
Seattle	24,269,315
Cleveland	24,083,400
Baltimore	23,761,338
San Francisco	22,581,414
Austin	19,074,989
Tampa	18,997,277
Torrance	18,787,856
San Jose	18,135,506
Boston	17,829,799
Atlanta	17,593,795
Cincinnati	17,065,259
Washington, D.C.	16,942,866

## Dicalite Uses Explained To Waleria Club

Some of the many uses to which diatomaceous earth may be put were explained to members of the Waleria Businessmen's Assn. Thursday night by G. A. Russell, sales manager for the Great Lakes Carbon Corp., operators of the Waleria Dicalite processing plant.

Russell took members of the club through a typical Sunday at home and emphasized the many contacts the average householder had with his firm's products through a normal day. These included plastics, dentifrices, cereal boxes, and other items about the house which the diatomaceous earth mined in the Palos Verdes hills plays a part in manufacturing.

The material is used, Russell said, to filter thousands of manufactured products ranging from corn syrup to beer, and as an extender for paints and varnishes, and as a cleaning agent in polishes.

Following the dinner meeting at Nickle's Poultry Ranch in Waleria, the club toured the Dicalite plant at the invitation of Al Muir, plant superintendent and member of the club.

Club president Bob Waegner presided at the meeting.

## Planning Group Puts OK On Subdivision Plan

The Regional Planning Commission approved last week the petition of a Gardena construction firm to subdivide an area north of Spencer St., west of Valeria St., in the Victor tract.